

【水鏡回天錄白話解】

REFLECTIONS IN THE WATER-MIRROR: TURNING THE TIDE OF DESTINY

黃山谷 (續)

Huang Shangu (continued)



宣公上人講於1987年6月26日

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又說偈曰

大孝天下眾仰瞻 辭官侍親黃庭堅
文章風雅含稚氣 行為瀟灑帶幽香
禪師金石震迷夢 晦堂訓導返故莊
來來去去何時了 現前即是自承當

「大孝天下眾仰瞻」：黃山谷天性篤孝，即使貴為朝中大臣，仍然無微不至地侍奉母親。他這種孝的德風，淵遠流長，為人們所共同瞻仰。

「辭官侍親黃庭堅」：在母親病時，他辭官來照顧母親，親嚐湯藥，晝夜視察母親的病容；等到母親病故後，他廬墓守孝，哀傷得幾乎自己也病倒了。

「文章風雅含稚氣」：他的詩文超逸絕塵，不流於俗套濫調，風雅中帶著天真的稚氣。

「行為瀟灑帶幽香」：雖然他命運多舛，但他隨遇而安，堅守品德，不為名利出賣自己的人格，始終安然若素，提得起，放得下，行為瀟灑。

「禪師金石震迷夢」：他早年隨著當時的風氣，好寫浪漫的詩詞；後來經圓通秀禪師的金石之聲震醒後，不再作色情之詞，不再寫姪艷之語，改寫放生之詩等。

Another Verse:

Everyone reveres his filial devotion.
Resigning from office to take care of his mother,
He was Huang Tingjian.
Literature of elegance and innocence,
Actions of genuineness and sincerity,
His previous mundane fantasies,
Were shattered by words of a Dhyana Master.
With Huitang's teaching and guidance,
He finally returned home.
Coming and going, when does it end?
But this moment, this "now,"
We have to accept and cherish.

Commentary:

Everyone reveres his filial devotion. Huang Shangu was naturally very filial. Though he was a well-respected government official, he still cared for his mother with great love and altruism. His filial devotion towards his parents was very well known, and the people respected him for this characteristic.

Resigning from office to take care of his mother, he was Huang Tingjian. When his mother fell ill, he resigned from government to take care of his mother. He personally tasted the soups and medicines for her and observed her sickness day and night. When his mother died, he built a thatched hut beside her grave and remained in mourning. He was so overcome with grief that he almost fell ill himself.

Literature of elegance and innocence. His poetry and literature were transcendental and pure, free from the flow of conventional cliché. His poetry was elegant, and at the same time also very innocent.

Actions of genuineness and sincerity. His life was extremely difficult, but he

「晦堂訓導返故莊」：晦堂禪師觀機逗教，俟時點破他，因而能返回本有的家鄉。

「來來去去何時了」：在江西省修水縣的縣誌裏，記載著一篇關於黃山谷前生的故事——當他二十六歲時出任蕪湖知州時，有一天午睡，夢到自己來到一個地方，看到一個白髮蒼蒼的老婆婆在門口設案祭拜，案上擺了一碗芹菜麵，揮手叫他來吃麵。黃山谷聞香不禁端起而食，夢醒時齒頰還殘留有芹菜香。

第二天午睡，還是作同樣的夢，醒後夢裏的情形猶歷歷在前。黃山谷很是納悶，於是循著夢境來到一個鄉間，居然看到夢裏的老婆婆，正設案祭拜，宛如夢裏所見。黃山谷訝異不已，趨前問老婆婆為何祭拜。她說：「昨天是我女兒的忌日，她二十六年年前病故，因生前喜歡吃芹菜麵，所以每逢她的忌日，我都特別以芹菜麵祭她。」黃山谷一聽，正和自己的年齡一樣，不禁再問她生前的情形，老婆婆說：「我女兒在世時矢志不嫁，好茹素念佛，研讀佛經與詩書等。我帶你去看看她的書房！」

一到書房，黃山谷只見書架上擺滿自己曾讀過的經書典籍，一切都是那麼熟稔！老婆婆指著一個櫃子說：「這個櫃子是她留下來的，但不知鑰匙放在哪兒，自從她過世後，一直沒打開過。我也不知裏面放些什麼！」可是黃山谷很容易就找到鑰匙。打開一看，愣住了！原來裏面竟放滿自己每次參加科試的文章！黃山谷頓時明白，原來這位孤苦無依的老婆婆就是自己前生的母親。於是將她迎到官邸孝養，還特地題詩偈：

似僧有髮 似俗脫塵
作夢中夢 悟身外身

was unaffected by all the vicissitudes he faced. He kept to his morals, and never betrayed himself for fame and fortune. His life was simple, and he was capable of letting things go. He had always lived at ease.

His previous mundane fantasies were shattered by the words of a Dhyana Master. He was much affected by the cultural influence in his early years, and was fond of writing romantic poetry. Later when Master Yuan Tong Xiu ruptured these mundane fantasies, Shangu was awakened and he decided not to use romantic or erotic themes for his poems, opting instead to write poems about liberating life.

With Huitang's teaching and guidance, he finally returned home. Dhyana Master Huitang dispensed teaching to him in accord with his potential at the right moment. Hence, Shangu was able to return to his original hometown.

Coming and going, when does it end? The Xiushui County of the Jiangxi province has recorded a story about the past life of Huang Shangu. When he was twenty-six years old, Shangu was the governor of Wuhu province at the time. One afternoon when he was taking a nap, he dreamed that he had arrived at a particular place, and saw an old woman at the door preparing ritualistic offerings. She had placed a bowl of celery noodles on the offering table and waved at him to come to eat it. Huang Shangu couldn't resist the appetizing smell of the food and he picked up the bowl and started eating. When he woke up, his mouth still had the lingering taste of celery.

He had the same dream the next day during his afternoon nap, and he could clearly remember the details of that dream even after he woke up. Perplexed and confused, Huang Shangu followed the scenes he remembered from his dream, and eventually arrived at a small village where he saw the same old lady. She was, just like the dream, preparing offerings. Shangu was shocked, and therefore went up to ask the old lady why she was preparing these offerings. She said, "Yesterday was my daughter's death anniversary. She died twenty-six years ago. Since she loved celery noodles when she was alive, I specifically make them every year on the anniversary of her death so she can eat them."

Huang Shangu was stunned, for he realized that the years coincided perfectly with his age. He hurried on to ask more of the girl's life before she passed away. The old lady said, "My daughter had resolved never to get married when she was alive. She was fond of being a vegetarian and chanting the Buddha's name, and she liked to investigate and study the Buddhist sutras, poems and classics alike. Come! I'll take you to her study room!"

Once he was in her study room, Huang Shangu saw that all the books on the shelf were the exact same books that he had read and thoroughly studied before! Everything was so familiar. The old lady pointed to a particular drawer and said, "She left behind that drawer, but I don't know where she put the key, so it hasn't been opened ever since she passed away. I don't even know what's inside!" But Huang Shangu found the key very easily. He opened it, and again, was shocked. Inside the drawer was a collection of all the essays he had written for his exams! Huang Shangu understood immediately; this lonely old lady was his mother in his previous life. He then invited her back home so he could take care of her. He even wrote the following poem:

Like a monk with hair, like a layman liberated from the mundane world.